

Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services

The Integration of Acute and Long Term Care Services: Status Report and Updated Timeline

December 6, 2007

The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) is making significant strides in the development of the Virginia Acute and Long-Term Care Integration (ALTC) program. The Department greatly appreciates the time and insight that our various stakeholders are providing to this process.

Mission Statement: *To improve the quality of life of Virginia's Medicaid-enrolled seniors and individuals with disabilities by empowering them to remain independent and reside in the setting of their choice for as long as possible through the provision of a streamlined primary, acute, and long-term care service delivery system that offers ongoing access to quality health and long-term care services, care coordination, and referrals to appropriate community resources.*

Under the Community Model, DMAS continues to work closely with seven communities to develop a Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly, known as PACE. Both Sentara PACE in Norfolk and Riverside PACE in Hampton Roads have held celebrations to launch their new PACE programs; four more communities will have operating PACE programs in 2008.

Under the Regional Model, DMAS will further expand the PACE philosophy of integrated care to a managed care delivery system, so that an even larger number of Virginia's seniors and persons with disabilities can benefit from PACE-like services. However, DMAS has adjusted its timeline for its release of the ALTC Request for Proposals (RFP) to the early spring of 2008 and subsequently launch the initial phase of the pilot project (Tidewater) during the winter of 2009. The RFP will be posted for public comment prior to the final release.

This updated timeline will provide DMAS time to:

- Optimally integrate stakeholder (including advocates, providers, health plan representatives, and other interested parties) comments and suggestions;
- Improve the likelihood of a smooth launch and ensure that participating health plans, providers, DMAS contractors, and DMAS operations staff have enough time to test program systems and train and educate providers and participants prior to the initial launch;
- Improve the likelihood of initial approval of the program by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and
- Integrate ideas gained from participation in the Center for Health Care Strategy Integrated Care institute. This program provides DMAS the opportunity to talk with states that have existing integrated care programs and receive input from national experts on this topic. DMAS was recently selected to participate in this program and views participation in this initiative as a valuable tool through which Virginia can identify best practices from other states. For further information on

this initiative, please visit: http://www.chcs.org/info-url_nocat3961/info-url_nocat_show.htm?doc_id=519776.

One key decision point for the Regional Model is that thirty days of nursing facility care for clients enrolled in a Managed Care Organization (MCO) will be included in the MCOs' capitation rates. This allows the MCO an opportunity to move the client back home with community based care services, if appropriate. After thirty days of nursing facility care, the client will revert back to the fee for service model.

DMAS is excited about the anticipated opportunities and outcomes resulting from ALTC and looks forward to launching this pilot program during the winter of 2009. Your continued interest, involvement, and insight are imperative to the success of Virginia's ALTC program and we look forward to working with you on this endeavor in the upcoming year.

Next Steps:

- DMAS will create an Implementation Advisory Group to provide consultation on the implementation of the ALTC program.
- DMAS anticipates holding additional stakeholder meetings during the upcoming months.
- DMAS will continue its research on other states' integrated care programs and will post the draft RFP in early 2008. DMAS will notify stakeholders about the comment period for the draft RFP.
- Please continue to submit questions and comments to the ALTC@dmass.virginia.gov or ALTCMCO@dmass.virginia.gov email addresses.
- Please visit <http://www.dmass.virginia.gov/altc-home.htm> for updates on the ALTC program.